

MARINE SERGEANT DAVID "DJ" EMERY, JR. HIGHWAY - DESIGNATION
Act of Jul. 9, 2008, P.L. 983, No. 74
AN ACT

CL. 36

Designating a portion of State Route 26 in Centre County as the Marine Sergeant David "DJ" Emery, Jr. Highway; designating the bridge on State Route 322 joining Clearfield and Centre Counties as the Veterans' Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of State Route 850 in Marysville Borough, Perry County, as the Army Private David E. Dietrich Memorial Highway; and designating a portion of U.S. Route 322 in Centre County as the Thomas D. Larson Memorial Highway.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Marine Sergeant David "DJ" Emery, Jr. Highway.

(a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) David "DJ" Emery, Jr., was born August 23, 1985. He graduated from Bellefonte Area High School in 2003 and studied masonry at the Centre County Vocational-Technical School. He was always an active outdoorsman and had a love of motorcycles.

(2) Emery enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June 2003 and, following completion of basic training, was deployed to Iraq in 2004 and then again in 2006.

(3) Private First Class Emery served with distinction in the 4th Battalion, 2nd Marines, 2/4 Gulf Company until February 7, 2007, when he was seriously wounded in an attack by a suicide bomber.

(4) Emery was promoted to Sergeant on May 9, 2007.

(b) Designation.--State Route 26 in Marion and Spring Townships, Centre County, from segments 450/748 to 570/000 is hereby designated as the Marine Sergeant David "DJ" Emery Highway.

(c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs to indicate the designation under subsection (b).

Section 2. Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

(a) Designation.--The bridge joining Clearfield and Centre Counties on State Route 322 is designated and shall be known as the Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

(b) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs which shall display the name of the bridge designated in subsection (a) at each end of the bridge and at the sides of the bridge so that persons traveling on State Route 322 can see the designation referred to in subsection (a).

Section 3. Army Private David E. Dietrich Memorial Highway.

(a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) David E. Dietrich was born January 14, 1985. He

graduated from Susquenita High School, Perry County, in 2004. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 56, and the Marysville Fire Company.

(2) Private Dietrich enlisted in the United States Army in March 2006, graduated from the United States Army Training Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky, on July 20, 2006, and a short time later was deployed to Iraq.

(3) Private Dietrich served with distinction in F Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Bridge Combat Team, 1st Armored Division until December 29, 2006, when he was fatally wounded when his combat patrol unit came under attack by small arms fire from enemy forces in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

(b) Designation.--State Route 850 throughout Marysville Borough, Perry County, is hereby designated as the Army Private David E. Dietrich Memorial Highway.

(c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs to indicate the designation under subsection (b).

Section 4. Thomas D. Larson Memorial Highway.

(a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

(1) Thomas D. Larson served as Secretary of Transportation from 1979 to 1987 during Governor Richard Thornburgh's administration.

(2) Thomas D. Larson is recognized as the individual who was instrumental in reforming the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and making it a national model of professionalism and innovation.

(3) After completing his service as secretary, Thomas D. Larson was sworn in as Federal Highway Administrator on August 10, 1989, and served until 1993.

(4) During his tenure as Federal Highway Administrator, he played an important role in the crafting of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (Public Law 102-240, 105 Stat. 1914).

(5) Before and after his public service to the Commonwealth and the United States, Thomas D. Larson also distinguished himself as a researcher and professor of civil and environmental engineering at The Pennsylvania State University, College of Engineering, and in preparing the next generation of transportation professionals.

(6) Pennsylvania lost a dedicated public servant, teacher and community leader on July 20, 2006.

(b) Designation.--U.S. Route 322 in Harris, College and Patton Townships, Centre County, from Segment Nos. 450/748 to 570/000 is hereby designated as the Thomas D. Larson Memorial Highway.

(c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs to indicate the designation under subsection (b).

Section 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.